

**Brookland Baptist Church**  
**Bible Study**  
**Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Facilitator**

Lecture XI

April 21, 2021

**THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED**

● **Matthew 6:16-18 (KJV)**

*<sup>16</sup> Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

*<sup>17</sup> But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;*

*<sup>18</sup> That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.*

**Fasting** – Going without food in order to spend time in prayer that we might grow closer to God; is noble and spirit-led. It gives us encouragement to pray, shows God how serious and sincere we are when asking for His favor. Fasting is like placing (3) exclamation points at the end of our prayer. It also teaches us self-discipline and reminds us that we can live with a lot less than some things which we have become accustomed. Jesus was not condemning fasting, but hypocrisy; fasting in order to gain public attention. Fasting was mandatory for the Jews once a year on the Day of Atonement.

● **Leviticus 23:26-32 (MSG)**

*<sup>26-32</sup> God said to Moses: “The tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly, fast, and offer a Fire-Gift to God. Don’t work on that day because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for you before your God. Anyone who doesn’t fast on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who works on that day. Don’t do any work that day—none. This is a perpetual decree for all the generations to come, wherever you happen to be living. It is a Sabbath of complete and total rest, a fast day. Observe your Sabbath from the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening.”*

The Pharisees voluntarily fasted twice a week to impress the people with their holiness. Jesus is pleased with acts of self-sacrifice done sincerely. He wants people to adopt spiritual discipline for the right reasons not from a self-desire of recognition and to be seen.

● **Matthew 17:14-21 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> *And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,*

<sup>15</sup> *Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for ofttimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.*

<sup>16</sup> *And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.*

<sup>17</sup> *Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.*

<sup>18</sup> *And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*

<sup>19</sup> *Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?*

<sup>20</sup> *And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

<sup>21</sup> *Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*

● **Acts 14:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> *And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.*

● **Matthew 6:19-24 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

*<sup>20</sup> But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

*<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*<sup>22</sup> The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

*<sup>23</sup> But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*<sup>24</sup> No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

**Covetousness** – greed; often desiring another person’s material possessions.

Jesus is here focusing on money and possessions. He tells His followers not to stock pile material goods in this life. He wants us to know that money and possessions are not dependable. They are easily lost. Clothing and other fabric can be eaten by moths. Metal objects rust. Thieves skillfully break into homes to steal our possessions. Disaster and chaos can take every material possession we have in an instant. Material possessions are temporary. Whatever we have of this world’s good, will be left behind. You can’t take it with you.

● **Luke 12:16-21 (KJV)**

*<sup>16</sup> And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

*<sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

*<sup>18</sup> And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

*<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*

*<sup>20</sup> But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

*<sup>21</sup> So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

● **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:10 (KJV)**

*<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Jesus says we can only have **ONE** Master. In our materialistic society, where many people serve money, they spend their lives collecting and saving it, only to die and leave it all behind. Their desire for money and what it can buy far outweighs their commitment to God and spiritual matters. Can you honestly say that God, and not money, is your Master?